

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 20, EVENING

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH, S/PRS

NO. 7

WIRES

ALL OF EARLY AFTERNOON WIRE ACCOUNTS REPORTED FROM VIENNA CLOSE OF HAK-GROM TALKS AND AGREEMENT "TO MEET AGAIN IN NEAR FUTURE." UPI (GROWALD) NOTED PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, WHILE AP (FREED) AND REUTERS (NELSON) REPORTED "GOOD AND CONSTRUCTIVE" DISCUSSIONS. AP STATED TUESDAY MEETING LASTED "AN HOUR LONGER THAN SCHEDULED" AND BOTH AP AND REUTERS QUOTED FROM GROM'S "THIS IS ONLY A SMALL DETAIL" RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER VERIFICATION COMPROMISE HAD BEEN REACHED. REUTERS ALSO REPORTED BOTH HAK AND GROM "INDICATED THEY WERE LEAVING A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OPEN FOR LATER DISCUSSION" AT A MEETING, WHICH HAK SAID WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE NEXT GENEVA ME PEACE CONFERENCE (MEPC) SESSION. SUBSEQUENT WIRE ACCOUNTS FROM BONN CARRIED REPORTS FROM SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS ON BOARD HAK'S AIRCRAFT.

AP - SENIOR OFFICIAL STATED HAK AND GROMYKO AGREED TO WORK UNCLASSIFIED

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OUT COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO HOLDING GENEVA MEPC AND HAD

MADE "'REAL PROGRESS' TOWARD AGREEMENT ON THE TIMING AND MANNER OF CONVENING" MEPC. NO DATE SET BUT WOULD

LIKELY TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. OFFICIAL SAID NEXT HAK-GROM MEETING "WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN EUROPE' SOMETIME DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JULY AND WILL DEAL PRIMARILY WITH" ME. FREED STATES "KISSINGER REPORTEDLY ASKED FOR THE ADDITIONAL TALKS." OFFICIAL TERMED MEETING "MORE POSITIVE THAN NEGATIVE" AND SAID HAK WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. GROM "CLARIFIED" SOV VIEWS ON SALT TALKS AND HAK "NOW HAS BETTER IDEA OF SOVIET THINKING TOWARD REACHING A COMPROMISE" ON VERIFICATION. SAYS VERIFICATION PANEL WILL MEET SATURDAY IN WASHINGTON TO CONSIDER HAK'S REPORT AND NSC MEETING WILL LATER BE HELD TO DEVELOP "FULL-FLEDGED U.S. POSITION IN TIME TO MAKE TREATY READY FOR SIGNING" DURING BREZ VISIT. "OFFICIAL SAID THE PROSPECTS OF THE SUMMIT MEETING, THEREFORE, WERE GOOD."

UPI - LEADS WITH OFFICIAL STATING HAK AND GROM AGREED "TO TRY FOR A JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN PEACE EFFORT FOR" ME. BOTH "AGREED FIRST TO TRY FOR A 'COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE'" FOR A GENEVA MEPC. QUOTES OFFICIAL STATING, "WE THEN WILL TRY LATER TO SEE IF WE CAN WORK OUT A COOPERATIVE APPROACH" ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, GROM DISPLAYED GENUINE FRIENDLINESS IN VIENNA. "THE MOOD WAS COOPERATIVE ... (GROM) WAS WILLING TO LISTEN," AND HAK NEVER FOUND GROM SO RELAXED. UPI SAYS OFFICIAL "STRESSED THAT KISSINGER SURRENDERED NO AMERICAN POSITION ON" ME AND "WAS ESPECIALLY EMPHATIC ABOUT THE CONTINUING AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE ISRAELI POSITION AGAINST SEATING PLO AS A SEPARATE PARTY" IN GENEVA.

REUTERS - LEAD SAYS "SOVIET UNION AGREED TO DELAY RE-CONVENING (MEPC) ... UNTIL AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER, AND TO REFRAIN FROM PRESSING ITS ARAB FRIENDS TO SEEK A RADICAL SOLUTION TO ME CONFLICT." SAYS LATTER CONCESSION WAS ONE OF U.S. GOALS DURING THESE TALKS AND THAT FORMER "WAS ALSO VIEWED AS A SOVIET CONCESSION." STATES "ON NUCLEAR ARMS ... SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON TECHNICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE (VLAD AGREEMENT) ... BUT NOT ENOUGH PROGRESS TO RESUME SALT TALKS ON JUNE 2. " ON ME, "OFFICIAL SAID HE WAS LESS SURE THAT SOVS WOULD ACTIVELY COOPERATE WITH U.S. IN ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT ... GROM'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE COOPERATION WAS STILL UNTESTED," CHIEF PROBLEM REMAINING THAT OF PLO REPRESENTATION. ON SALT, OFFICIALS INSISTED PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. "HAK CAME TO VIENNA HOPING TO START WORKING TOWARDS A COMPROMISE WITH GROM ON (VERIFICATION) ... -- BUT HIS IDEAS MUST BE STUDIED IN MOSCOW BEFORE

ANY PROGRESS CAN TAKE PLACE.

SEPARATE REUTERS ITEM FROM BONN REPORTED HAK "WILL HOLD UNSCHEDULED TALKS HERE TONIGHT WITH HIS PORTUGUESE COUNTERPART" AND WERE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS NATO. EARLIER REPORT MENTIONS HAK'S DISCUSSIONS TOMORROW WITH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER.

NEWSPAPERS

LATIMES (ABRAMSOM) LEADS W;TH HAK AND GROM TALKING FAR INTO MONDAY EVENING, "SEEKING TO CLOSE CRUCIAL LOOP-HOLES IN LAST YEAR'S NUCLEAR ARMS UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FORD AND BREZ.

"IT WAS THE FIRST TOP-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE THE COMMUNIST VICTORY IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE SESSION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT IN PART BY SOVIET INTEREST IN GAUGING THE U.S. MOOD IN THE WAKE OF ITS DEVASTATING SETBACK, AND A DESIRE BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TO ASSURE THE WORLD THAT ITS MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES REMAIN INTACT... "

"WHILE U.S. OFFICIALS PREDICTED KISSINGER AND GROMYKO WOULD END THEIR MEETING IN VIENNA TODAY WITHOUT MAKING A BREAKTHROUGH ON ARMS ISSUES, THE MEETING SHOWED THAT CRUCIAL DECISIONS WILL BE MADE APART FROM THE FORMAL GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE FIRST STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES ... WAS NEGOTIATED LARGELY BY KISSINGER THROUGH 'BACK CHANNEL' CONTACTS WITH SOVIET LEADERS."

" ... DURING AN HOUR AND 15 MINUTE SESSION, KISSINGER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BROUGHT UP THE VIETNAM ISSUE AND TO HAVE REMINDED GROMYKO THAT CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE DETENTE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS REQUIRES RESTRAINT IN SECONDARY MATTERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

" ... THE FIRST SPECIFIC SUBJECT TAKEN UP ... WAS THE PROPOSED SUMMIT MEETING ON EUROPEAN SECURITY ... "

"THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN LUKEWARM ABOUT THE MEETING, BUT OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER SAID ENOUGH U.S. ALLIES IN EUROPE ARE COMMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD DO LITTLE TO DELAY OR BLOCK IT..."

TV

ABC: SMITH: HAK AND GROM WOUND UP THEIR VIENNA TALKS TODAY AND THE FIRST RESULTS WERE POSITIVE.

KOPPEL: GROM RARELY GIVES AWAY ANYTHING IN PUBLIC. THIS MORNING HE OUTDID HIMSELF.

GROM (ON CAMERA): ONE, TWO, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FOUR.

KOPPEL: HE WAS SAVED FROM GIVING ANYTHING MORE AWAY BY THE ARRIVAL OF HAK. SOME OF THE CORDIALITY APPEARS TO HAVE SPILLED INTO THE MEETING ITSELF. FOR FIVE AND A HALF HOURS THE SOVS AND U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAMS EDGED THEIR WAY TOWARD A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT. THE NEW TENTATIVE TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION IS OCTOBER. AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT A DECISION TO TRY AND SOLVE THE ME PROBLEMS THROUGH SOV-U.S. COOPERATION.

HAK: I CAN SAY NOW THAT WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR A FURTHER DETAILED REVIEW OF THE SALT TALKS, THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN THE ME, AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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GROM: I AGREE WITH THE SECRETARY.

KOPPEL: FOR THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF, HAK HAS TRIED TO EXCLUDE THE SOVS FROM THE ME NEGOTIATIONS. HE MAY NOT HAVE TOTALLY GIVEN UP YET ON SEPARATE U.S. PEACE INITIATIVES BUT THE SESSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH GROM DOESN'T GIVE HAK MUCH TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL DIPLOMACY. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS ARE STILL INSISTING THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS ON AMERICA'S ME REASSESSMENT WILL BE REACHED UNTIL AFTER PRES FORD MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. BUT THESE SAME OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT A NEW SPIRIT OF SOV-U.S. COOPERATION IS NOW SHAPING UP ON GENEVA EVEN THOUGH THEY INSIST THAT COMPROMISE ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE SOV SIDE.

NBC: CHANCELLOR: HAK AND GROM ENDED TWO DAYS OF TALKS TODAY IN VIENNA. A SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD HAK'S PLANE SAID LATER THAT THE TWO MEN AGREED TO TRY TO WORK TOGETHER ON RECONVENING THE MEPC IN GENEVA.

VALERIANI: TODAY IT WAS GROM'S TURN TO BE THE HOST SO HAK WENT TO THE SOV EMBASSY FOR ANOTHER MEETING AND LUNCH. DURING THEIR SIX HOURS OF TALKS HAK REPORTEDLY FOUND

THE SOVS WILLING TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE ON THE ME IF THE GENEVA MEPC IS RECONVENED. BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW THEY WOULD COOPERATE. THE TWO MEN ALSO DISCUSSED STRATEGIC ARMS AND HAK CAME AWAY MORE CONFIDENT THAN BEFORE THAT AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITING OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE READY IN TIME FOR A WASH-

INGTON SUMMIT MEETING THIS FALL. AFTERWARD BOTH MEN WERE UPBEAT AND GROM EVEN MADE LIGHT OF ONE OF THE MAJOR STICKING POINTS IN THE ARMS TALKS, HOW TO COUNT MISSILES WITH MORE THAN ONE WARHEAD ONCE THEY'RE DEPLOYED.

GROM: A SMALL DETAIL.

VALERIANI: AS HE WAS LEAVING VIENNA HAK SUMMED UP HIS MEETING WITH GROM THIS WAY:
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HAK: ON THE WHOLE, I AM SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT HERE. I LEAVE WITH THE CONVICTION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND FOR THE PROGRESS ON MANKIND, AND THAT WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO KEEP THEM ON COURSE.

VALERIANI: HAK THEN CAME TO GERMANY TO FULFILL A PROMISE TO VISIT WEST BERLIN. HE'LL ALSO BRIEF GERMAN OFFICIALS ON HIS MEETINGS WITH GROM, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE ESSENTIALLY A HOLDING ACTION. NO DECISIONS ARE POSSIBLE ON THE ARMS TALKS UNTIL EACH GOVERNMENT REVIEWS THE LATEST IDEAS OF THE OTHER. AND THE U.S. WANTS TO PUT OFF A DECISION ON THE ME UNTIL AFTER PRES FORD HAS MET WITH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS NEXT MONTH. SO HAK AND GROM WILL GET TOGETHER AGAIN IN EARLY JULY TO MAKE SOME MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES.

CBS: MUDD: HAK TOOK HIS DIPLOMATIC ENTOURAGE TO BONN TODAY AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS IN VIENNA WITH GROM.

KALB: GROM HOSTED THIS CONCLUDING SESSION, DEVOTED AMONG OTHER THINGS TO THE EXPLOSIVE ISSUE OF THE ME. HAK GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT GROM WANTED TO COOPERATE ON ARRANGING THE CONDITIONS FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE. NOT MANY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED, MOSTLY PROCEDURAL, BUT HAK STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO UNTIL IT RECOGNIZED ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. THE OTHER MAJOR TOPIC WAS THE STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. THERE WERE ABOUT A HALF-DOZEN OTHER UNRESOLVED ISSUES INCLUDING VERIFICATION, MEANING THE WAY OF CHECKING ON HOW MANY MISSILES EACH SIDE CLAIMS TO

HAVE. THREE MINOR ISSUES WERE RESOLVED BUT NOT VERIFICATION. BY THE TIME THEY EMERGED, MORE THAN SIX HOURS LATER, HAK WAS READY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY WOULD MEET AGAIN, HE AND GROM, PROBABLY IN JULY.

KALB: HAS ANY COMPROMISE BEEN REACHED, SIR, ON THE ISSUE OF VERIFICATION? COULD YOU TELL US?

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GROM: IT IS A DETAIL, A SMALL DETAIL.

KALB: VERIFICATION IS A SMALL DETAIL? ITS BEEN TAKEN
CARE OF?

HAK: WE CAN'T GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES
THAT WERE DISCUSSED. BUT, AS I SAID, THE TALKS WERE
USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

KALB: HIS STOP OVERNIGHT HERE IN BONN FOR TALKS WITH
WEST GERMAN LEADERS IS REALLY A WAY-STATION ON THE
ROAD TO WEST BERLIN, WHICH HAK WILL VISIT TOMORROW, MUCH
TO GROM'S UNHAPPINESS. ON THE ME THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN
LEARNED: FIRST, THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS BEEN
DELAYED UNTIL LATE AUGUST, PERHAPS EARLY SEPTEMBER, AND
SECOND, WHEN IT BEGINS, THE PLO WILL PROBABLY NOT BE
PRESENT. WE ARE TOLD THAT GROM EASED UP CONSIDERABLY
ON GROM'S EARLIER INSISTENCE ON PLO REPRESENTATION,
THUS GIVING HAK A CHANCE FOR ANOTHER ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN
ACCOMODATION BEFORE THAT CONFERENCE. WHAT IS NOT KNOWN
AT THIS POINT IS WHAT PRICE THE U.S. PAID FOR THAT
DEGREE OF SOV COOPERATION. INGERSOLL

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